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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

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EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. BOX 55874
BOSTON, MA 02205

In re Application of JOUNG et al
U.S. Application No.: 10/532,258
PCT Application No.: PCT/US03/34010
Int. Filing Date: 23 October 2003
Priority Date Claimed: 23 October 2002
Attorney Docket No.: 6203(51588)
For: CONTEXT SENSITIVE PARALLEL
OPTIMIZATION OF ZINC FINGER DNA
BINDING DOMAINS

DECISION

This is in response to applicant's "Renewed Petition Under 37 C.F.R. §1.47(a)" filed 02 October 2006.

BACKGROUND

On 23 October 2003, applicant filed international application PCT/US03/34010, which claimed priority of an earlier United States application filed 23 October 2002. The thirty-month period for paying the basic national fee in the United States expired on 23 April 2005.

On 21 April 2005, applicant filed national stage papers in the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US). The submission was accompanied by, *inter alia*, the basic national fee required by 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1).

On 15 December 2005, the DO/EO/US mailed a Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. 371 (Form PCT/DO/EO/905), which indicated that an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497 must be filed.

On 18 May 2006, applicant filed a petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

On 28 June 2006, this Office mailed a decision dismissing the 18 May 2006 petition.

On 02 October 2006, applicant filed the present renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

DISCUSSION

A petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) must be accompanied by: (1) an oath or declaration by each applicant on his or her own behalf and on behalf of the nonsigning joint inventors, (2) factual proof that the missing joint inventors refuse to join in the application or cannot be reached after diligent effort, (3) the fee set forth in §1.17(i), and (4) the last known addresses of the nonsigning joint inventors.

Applicant has previously satisfied items (3) and (4) above.

With regard to item (1) above, the renewed petition is accompanied by a declaration executed by the available inventor on his own behalf and on behalf of the nonsigning inventor.

With regard to item (2) above, MPEP 409.03(d) states in relevant part,

Where a refusal to sign the application papers is alleged, the circumstances of this refusal must be specified in an affidavit or declaration by the person to whom the refusal was made. Statements by a party not present when an oral refusal is made will not be accepted.

Before a refusal can be alleged, it must be demonstrated that a bona fide attempt was made to present a copy of the application papers (specification, including claims, drawings, and oath or declaration) to the nonsigning inventor for signature. A copy of the application papers should be sent to the last known address of the nonsigning inventor, or, if the nonsigning inventor is represented by counsel, to the address of the nonsigning inventor's attorney.

When there is an express oral refusal, that fact along with the time and place of the refusal must be stated in the affidavit or declaration. When there is an express written refusal, a copy of the document evidencing that refusal must be made part of the affidavit or declaration.

When it is concluded by the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant that a nonsigning inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in the affidavit or declaration. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the affidavit or declaration, such evidence should be submitted. Whenever a nonsigning inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the affidavit or declaration.

The petition states that joint inventor Carl Pabo refuses to sign the application papers. The renewed petition adequately demonstrates that a bona fide attempt was made to present a copy of the application papers to Dr. Pabo for signature (see statement of Amy Leahy) and that Dr. Pabo received such papers (see electronic mail message dated 09 March 2006). Furthermore, the renewed petition sufficiently illustrates that Dr. Pabo refuses to sign. Specifically, Dr. Pabo made an express written refusal to sign in the electronic mail message dated 13 April 2006 (see affidavit of Sandra Fay-Richard, ¶4). Thus, it can be concluded with reasonable certainty that Dr. Pabo refuses to join in the application.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons above, the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is GRANTED.

The application has an International Filing Date under 35 U.S.C. 363 of 23 October 2003, and a date under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) of 02 October 2006.

As set forth in 37 CFR 1.47(a), a notice of the filing of this application will be forwarded to the nonsigning inventor at the last known address of record and will be published in the *Official Gazette*.

This application is being forwarded to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) for further processing in accordance with this decision.

Bryan Lin

Bryan Lin
PCT Legal Examiner
PCT Legal Office

Telephone: 571-272-3303
Facsimile: 571-273-0459